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PRESENTATION  
OF THE  
ROYAL AWARDS.

(*At the Anniversary Meeting, May 23rd, 1870.*)

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ROYAL MEDALS.

THE Founder's Medal was awarded to Mr. George J. W. Hayward, the Society's Envoy to Central Asia, for the Map of his Journey across the Kuen Lun into Eastern Turkistan, and for the perseverance with which he is endeavouring to carry out his object of reaching the Pamir Steppe. The Patron's, or Victoria Medal, to Lieutenant Francis Garnier, of the French Navy, second in command of the French Exploring Expedition from Cambodia to the Yang-tsze-Kiang, for the part he took in the extensive Surveys executed by the Commission, for his Journey to Tali-fu, and for the ability with which, after the death of his chief, Captain de Lagrée, he brought the Expedition in safety to Hankow.

In presenting the Medal to Major-General Sir H. C. Rawlinson, on behalf of Mr. Hayward, the PRESIDENT spoke as follows:—

“The Founder's Medal for the year 1870, has been awarded to Mr. G. J. W. Hayward, late of H.M. 72nd Regiment, for the valuable services he has already rendered to Science in improving our acquaintance with the Geography of Central Asia; and also in acknowledgment of his zeal and energy in entering at the present time on another perilous expedition for the same purpose. Mr. Hayward having proposed, in 1868, to proceed as a private traveller on an exploring journey into Central Asia, if the Royal Geographical Society would provide him with instruments and contribute to the expenses of the expedition, such assistance was readily afforded; and the Society has every reason to be satisfied with the results of the Journey, which was thus undertaken under their auspices and with their encouragement. The countries to which Mr. Hayward's attention was particularly directed were the plains of Eastern

Turkistan on the one side, and the contiguous Pamir Plateau on the other; the hydrography of the Upper Oxus, of which our knowledge is very imperfect, being considered an object of especial interest. It was recommended to endeavour to penetrate from the Cabul River by the Valley of Chitral to the head streams of the Oxus, and from thence to pass over the Pamir Steppes to the cities of Yarkand and Kashgar; but if this route, which has never yet, it is believed, been followed by a European traveller, proved impracticable, he was authorised to pursue the easier line by Cashmir and Little Tibet. Finding, accordingly, on his arrival at Peshawar, that the tribes to the north-west were in arms, and that the mountain-passes were entirely closed, he proceeded direct to Leh, the capital of Ladak, and from thence took the high road to Yarkand. Here his geographical researches and discoveries commenced. He tracked the upper courses both of the Karakash (or Khoten) and Yarkand rivers, and rectified important errors in the official maps; and he pointed out the immense importance of securing the Yangi Davan Pass, beyond the Yarkand River, against the inroads of the Kúnjút robbers, as the only road across the Kuen Lun which was practicable to laden horses or mules. Subsequently Mr. Hayward pursued his journey to the cities of Yarkand and Kashgar, taking observations for latitude at almost every stage, and, by careful measurements of distance and a continuous series of angles, determining with very considerable accuracy the longitudes also of all the principal stations. The map of Eastern Turkistan, which Mr. Hayward forwarded to the Geographical Society on his return to India, is a most creditable and valuable document. It has already received high commendations both from the Government and the Survey authorities in India, and as it will be published in the Society's 'Journal,' together with the elaborate Memoir with which it was accompanied, it will soon be available for general reference.

"The Council of the Royal Geographical Society, as a scientific body, can take cognizance officially only of geographical services; and it is expressly on this ground that they have awarded the Founder's Medal for the present year to Mr. Hayward; but they cannot lose sight of the fact that the travels of Messrs. Hayward and Shaw have been at least as valuable in a public as in a scientific point of view. They have removed causes of distrust and alarm which gave rise to disquietude in India; they have opened out a new field to British trade and enterprise; they have laid the founda-

tion of what may prove in the sequel to be a valuable political alliance.

“With regard to Mr. Hayward’s present position, nothing positive can be announced. All that is known is this, that being stimulated rather than disheartened by his failure to reach the Pamir Plateau from Turkistan (the Kashgar authorities having placed an absolute interdict on his proposal to return to India by Badakhshan and Chitral) he had no sooner recruited his strength by a few months’ rest on the Indian frontier, than he resolved to make another attempt to carry out his original design. Assisted, accordingly, by a further supply of funds from the Geographical Society, and having obtained the good wishes and support of his Highness the Maharajah of Cashmir, he started towards the close of the year for the valley of Gilgit, which is now held by his Highness’s troops. He intended to winter in Gilgit or some of the adjoining valleys, and to endeavour in the early spring, or as soon as the passes were open, to push his way across the mountains to Badakhshan and the Upper Oxus. From thence the road would be open to Pamir, and he hoped, after thoroughly examining the hydrography of the Upper Oxus, to cross into the Russian territory of Samarkand, where, at the instance of the President of this Society, instructions have been sent from St. Petersburg to receive him with kindness and hospitality, and facilitate his return to England. In the course of the next few weeks, it is probable that something definite will be learnt as to his present and prospective movements.”

Sir HENRY C. RAWLINSON, having received the Medal, spoke as follows:—

“I feel an especial pride and satisfaction in receiving on behalf of Mr. Hayward this day, at your hands, the Patron’s Gold Medal of the Royal Geographical Society. I feel a pride because it was my good fortune to introduce Mr. Hayward in the first instance to the notice of the Society, and I feel a satisfaction because I know that Mr. Hayward has fairly earned the distinction which has been conferred upon him, and because I also foresee that his successful example will stimulate many other travellers to similar exertions in the cause of science. Perhaps it may not be out of place if, in a very few words, I briefly state how Mr. Hayward has come to gain the Medal of the Society, and in how far I was instrumental in sending this promising explorer on his travels. For the last thirty years I have taken a great interest in the geography of Central Asia, and

have striven to encourage and promote discovery in those regions. Personally I was unacquainted with Mr. Hayward until a very few years ago, when, on his return from India, he waited on me one day at the India Office, and stated that having retired from the army, and being desirous of active employment, he proposed to undertake any exploratory expedition that I could suggest. He added that he had some experience in such travels, that he was a fair surveyor and draughtsman, and that he was ready, in fact, to proceed on any expedition that I could recommend. I at once suggested to him that the cities of Eastern Turkistan and the Pamir Steppes were regions of great interest with which we were comparatively unacquainted. They were of interest, I told him, not only geographically but commercially and politically. He readily fell in with the suggestion, and offered to proceed by the next mail to India, provided, as he was not in affluent circumstances, the Geographical Society would contribute something to the expenses of the expedition. That contribution was at once accorded, thanks to the liberality of the Council, and he left by the next mail for India. You have already explained, Sir, how on his arrival in the Punjaub, he found the passes into Tartary by the Chitral and Bajore valleys to the west, which a European had never threaded, to be impassable, owing to disturbances among the mountain tribes, and was thus compelled to abandon his first project; but nothing daunted by this failure, he soon struck out another line further east, and in due course, in company with Mr. Shaw, he reached the cities of Yarkand and Kashgar, which had never before been visited by an Englishman. I will notice one great disadvantage under which he laboured, a disadvantage which I think it is infinitely to his credit that he was able to overcome. He travelled as a mere private gentleman; he was not officially recognized by the Government; he had no profession, no occupation. Now, a private traveller, although that character is perfectly understood in Europe and in Western Asia, is quite unintelligible to the suspicious inhabitants of Central Asia. They regard every one who is not an avowed servant of the Government, or a merchant, or a doctor, as necessarily a spy; they cannot appreciate the desire we have to obtain new geographical information, and, therefore, I think it does greatly redound to Mr. Hayward's credit, and testifies to his tact, temper, and diplomatic skill, that he was able to disarm suspicion, and not only to reach the cities of Kashgar and Yarkand, but to return in safety, and bring back such ample and correct

materials with regard to the physical features of all the country between the British dependencies on the one side and the Russian dependencies on the other. I can add nothing, Sir, to what you have already stated as to Mr. Hayward's present position and prospects; but of one thing I am assured, and that is that the same indomitable will, the same fertility of expedient, the same disregard of dangers and hardships, the same iron constitution and great bodily activity, which carried him successfully through the snowy passes of the Karakorum and Kuen Lun, will stand him in good stead in his present still more hazardous undertaking; and that if any Englishman can reach the Pamir Steppe, and settle the geography of that mysterious region, the site of the famous Mount Méru of the Hindoos, and the primeval paradise of the Aryan nations, Mr. Hayward is the man. Sir, with such a hope, I gladly accept this medal on Mr. Hayward's behalf; I accept it as the reward of daring and enterprise, combined with skill, accomplishments, and intelligence, and knowing as I do Mr. Hayward's ardent and impressible nature, I feel assured that he will receive the medal as an ample return for his labours in the past, and as a happy augury of his success in the future."

The President then addressed Lieutenant Francis Garnier, of the French Navy, the recipient of the Victoria Medal :—

"The Patron's or Victoria Gold Medal of the Royal Geographical Society is presented to you, Sir, as the accomplished and intrepid traveller who accompanied, as second in command, the late Captain de Lagrée on the great expedition of exploration from the French territory in Cochin China, along the Mekong River, and through the heart of China, to the Yang-tsze-Kiang. In the course of this expedition, from Cratieh in Cambodia to Shanghai, 5392 miles were travelled over, and of these, 3625 miles, chiefly of country almost unknown to us, were surveyed with care, and the positions fixed by astronomical observations.

"In carrying out this important and truly scientific mission, your commander succumbed to the fatigues and privations of the harassing march between the head-waters of the Mekong and Tong-chuan, in the centre of Yunan. Through his illness the progress of the undertaking was for a time arrested, for one of the chief objects—a visit to Tali-fu, the head-quarters of the formidable Mahomedan insurrection against the Chinese authorities—seemed little likely to be realised. But you, Sir, nobly volunteered to undertake this

hazardous journey, and your commander having consented, you made a rapid march to the rebel stronghold, satisfactorily fixed its geographical position, and escaping a threatened attack by the jealous inhabitants of the place, returned in safety to the capital of Yunan, where, alas! you found your chief had died in your absence. Disinterring his remains for conveyance to your native country, you crossed to the nearest port on the Yang-tsze, and embarking in a native boat, you brought the remainder of your party in safety to the mouth of the river.

"In my Address of last year, I spoke, M. Garnier, of the most remarkable explorations of yourself and your associates, as having developed not only the true physical geography of vast tracts hitherto undescribed, but also in having contributed much fresh knowledge respecting the philology, antiquities, zoology, botany, and geology of these regions. I then also said, that you and your associates had traversed a greater amount of new country than, according to my belief, had been accomplished for many years by any travellers in Asia, and I confidently anticipated that our Council would at this Anniversary award you our highest honour. In short, as France has the fullest right to be proud of these doings of her gallant naval officers, so on my part I can assure you, M. Garnier, that every English traveller and geographer rejoices in seeing you honoured with the medal which bears the likeness of our beloved Queen Victoria. It gratifies me to learn that the great work descriptive of your remarkable explorations is about to be published, under the auspices of the Imperial Government; and I shall be delighted to learn that your enlightened Emperor should reward you by promotion to a higher rank in the French Navy."

M. GARNIER replied as follows :—

"Messieurs,—Je regrette vivement de ne pas connaître assez la langue anglaise pour adresser dans cette langue mes remerciements à la Société de Géographie d'Angleterre. Je ne fais sans doute que recueillir l'héritage scientifique du noble officier dont j'étais le second, et qui, après avoir mené à bonne fin un long et périlleux voyage, a malheureusement succombé au port. Permettez-moi donc de rapporter à la mémoire du Commandant de Lagrée tous vos glorieux suffrages.

"Ne dois-je pas rappeler aussi que c'est à l'initiative anglaise qu'ont été dues les premières tentatives faites pour pénétrer de l'Inde

en Chine, et qu'il y a plus de trente ans le lieutenant MacLeod reconnaissait un point du Mekong situé presque aux frontières de ce dernier empire. Sur quelque partie du globe que l'on se trouve, au seuil de toutes les contrées inconnues, ne sont-ce pas presque toujours des voyageurs anglais qui s'avancent, qui s'exposent pour étendre le cercle des connaissances géographiques ?

Cette conquête scientifique du globe est la seule qui doive exciter aujourd'hui l'émulation des peuples. Le monde appartient à qui l'étudie et le connaît le mieux ; et comme Français, je ne puis m'empêcher d'envier à l'Angleterre et de souhaiter à mon pays, cette ardeur de découvertes, ce besoin d'expansion qui fait flotter le pavillon britannique sur tous les rivages, et a fait de son commerce le premier commerce du monde. La noble récompense que décerne aujourd'hui à un Français la Société de Géographie de Londres, prouve que votre pays, Messieurs, sera le premier à applaudir et à encourager les efforts qui auront pour mobile le progrès des sciences et l'appel à la civilisation des régions restées jusqu'à présent en dehors du mouvement général. C'est là le plus grand des devoirs qui incombent aux nations civilisées ; c'est dans son accomplissement qu'il y a le plus de gloire à recueillir, et cette gloire la Société de Géographie d'Angleterre se l'est acquise entre toutes, par la féconde et puissante impulsion qu'elle a su imprimer aux recherches géographiques."

The President then presented the medals awarded to the successful competitors in the geographical examination of the year, held, at the invitation of the Society, at the chief Public Schools. The names of the medallists were :—In Physical Geography, Gold Medal, Mr. George Grey Butler, of Liverpool College ; Bronze Medal, Mr. Martin Stewart, of Rossall School. In Political Geography, Gold Medal, Mr. George William Gent, of Rossall School ; Bronze Medal, Mr. James Henry Collins, of Liverpool College. The young men having been introduced by Mr. Galton, the President thus spoke :—

" In presenting these Medals, I may remind the Meeting that this act on the part of the Society, which was decided on by our Council at the suggestion of Mr. Francis Galton, is now brought into operation for the second time. The working of this system is due to two Members of the Council, Mr. Francis Galton and Mr. George Brodrick, and the awards are made by two eminent men of science and letters, Mr. Alfred R. Wallace and the Very Rev. Dr. Howson,



Dean of Chester. It is needless for me to indicate that every young reader of classical history must infinitely better understand his subject if the proper boundaries and political geography of ancient kingdoms are brought to his mind's eye in maps. Again an acquaintance with physical geography is an essential part of the instruction of every well-educated person. It is to these two classes of our subject that we assign medals of different values, according to the Report of the Examiners, two of bronze and two of gold. On this point I have to observe that those who have gained medals this year were all competitors for such distinctions last year, as will be seen by the Report of the Examination when published. On this occasion, as at the last Anniversary, the chief honours have been won by educational establishments in Lancashire, viz., the Liverpool College and Rossall School.

"It is much to be regretted that at present the leading public schools, Eton, Harrow, and Rugby, have not as yet competed for these juvenile honours; but I feel confident that they will ere long prepare youths who will pass with credit through the ordeal of our Examiners.

"On this occasion the Gold Medal for Physical Geography has been won by Mr. George Grey Butler, to whom I now deliver the Prize, adding these observations on my own part. That it is a hopeful sign of the reform in modern education to find that a representative of the name of Butler, a family which has gained so many successes at the Universities in purely classical studies, which has contributed two Head Masters to Harrow and two to other great public schools, should have competed for and won our Gold Medal for Physical Geography. I congratulate you, Mr. Butler, on being the worthy recipient of this distinction. Lastly, when I turn to the subject of Political Geography, I am much gratified to present to you, Mr. George William Gent, the Gold Medal for this important branch of knowledge, for I am happy to remind the Assembly that you gained the Bronze Medal last year for Physical Geography."

The annual prize of five pounds for proficiency in geography, granted to the Society of Arts for the examination held under their direction, was afterwards handed by the President to Mr. Critchett, on behalf of the successful candidate, Mr. Thomas Richard Clarke.